construction of link road / culvert, electrification and street lights in villages, installation /reparing of hand pumps, construction /renovation of ponds, construction of dam, construction / extension / reparing of school buildings, supply of furniture /apparatus to schools, construction of children's park, sulabh sauchalays, burning ghat, community centres, library and adult education centre in villages, stadium / play ground and supply of sports material to villagers etc.

Financial Losses at Indian American Expo in USA

52. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state that:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian American Expo organised by the Global Exhibitions Limited at the Atlanta city in USA resulted in fiasco causing huge financial losses and other problems to Indian participants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Indo-American Expo was held at Atlanta City, New Jersey, USA from 14h to 16th June, 1995. This Expo was organised by the private agencies viz: Global Exhibition Ltd. Hyderabad and Global Expositions Inc., New York. This exhibition was a wholly private initiative and no financial assistance was given by Government.

The Consul General of India, New York has intimated that against an expected participation of about 500 Indian companies, only 120 companies were able to participate, the Expo is reported to have been partially successful as majority of the participants from India were able to contact a number of importers in New York and New Jersey areas of USA and were able to get a feel of the American market.

Autonomous Development Councils

53. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up autonomous development councils in some States;

(b) if so, the States where such councils are proposed to be set up;

(c) the justification for constitution of such Councils; and

(d) the details of the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) There is no proposal before the Planning Commission for setting up autonomous development councils in some States.

(b) to (d) Do not arise..

Duty Exemption Scheme for Import of Raw Materials

54. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state that:

(a) whether the duty exemption scheme for the import of duty-free raw materials has been successful;

(b) if so, what is the extent of its success;

(c) whether the five categories of licences under this scheme will be expanded;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what is the response of the importers to this scheme, and whether they have suggested any modification, if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Duty Exemption Scheme has been an effective instrument for promot-

ing exports. The extent of success of the scheme can be judged from the increasing number of applications received. the licences issued and the export obligations undertaken the Scheme.

(c) There is no proposal for further expansion of existing categories of licences under the Duty Exemption Scheme.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Review of Exim Policy / Procedure is a continuous process, and changes are made in the Policy and Procedure as and when considered necessary in public interest keeping in view the suggestions received from the trade and industry.

Contracts for Export of Basmati and Non-Basmati Rice

55. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has received orders for export of 0.5 m.t. of basmati rice and 2.5 m.t. of non-basmati rice;

(b) whether it is also a fact that poor infrastructure and delay at ports may hamper exports; and

(c) if so, steps being taken to improve these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) As per the EXIM Policy both basmati and non-basmati rice are freely exportable without any quantity and price restrictions. There is also no obligation on part of the exporters to register their contracts with any designated agency. The data on export contracts signed by the exporters is therefore not maintained. However, upto August, 1995, 14,56,276 MT of rice (Basmati and non-basmati) valued at Rs. 1186.74 crores was exported.

(b) and (c) Expansion of exports has brought into focus infrastructural issues. Resort to any specific port in excessive measure for movement of the bulk of foodgrains of export cargo tends to cause congestion. Export of foodgrains (including rice), therefore, is being arranged through various ports, major and minor. Meetings have also been held with Ministry of Surface Transport and Ministry of Railways to coordinate movement of export cargo.

Inclusion of Medical Profession Under Consumer Protection Act

56. SHRI S. MUTHUMANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to include the Medical Profession under the Consumers' Protection Act; and

(b) what is Government's reaction with regard to the recent judgement of the Supreme Court in respect of Medical Profession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): (a) Medical Profession is already covered under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(b) The judgement recently given by the Supreme Court clarifies the position of the medical profession in relation to the Consumer Protection Act.

भारतीय खाद्य निगम की बढ़ती हुई प्रचालन लागत

57. **श्री राजूभाई ए० परमार:** क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या गत कुछ वर्षों के दौरान भारतीय खाद्य निगम की प्रचालन लागत में निरन्तर वृद्धि हो रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो 1989-90 से ऐसी वृद्धि का मद-वार और वर्ष-वार ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?